

THE WORKMAN.

Devoted to the Interests of Organized Labor.

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SOCIALIST PARTY PLATFORM

The Socialist Party of Asheville, in convention assembled, affirms allegiance to the principles of international revolutionary socialism, and arraigns the present social system as unjust, uneconomic and uncivilized. We declare that the present political and industrial system is responsible for the poverty and suffering of the great majority of the people, the vice and crime of an ever-increasing portion, and the rapid concentration of the wealth of the country in the hands of a small minority, and especially responsible for the overshadowing anxiety and dread which pervade all classes.

We denounce the leaders of the two old parties as defenders of the present system and deceivers of the people, and we perceive no real difference between them. The republican party stands for the large capitalist class as represented by the great syndicates and trusts; while the democratic party, departing from the principles of Jefferson, stands for the small capitalist class as it existed forty years ago. But they are both capitalist parties and champion the interest of the capitalist class.

The Socialist Party stands for the whole people, since its members are convinced that private property in land and capital, two great factors in production, is responsible for present conditions; that the abolition of private property in these means of production would remove the unquestionable distinction into capitalist and producing classes, and thus place all the people on an industrial equality, but with the assurance that the dread of poverty and want would be gone forever.

We demand, therefore, that all the means of production and distribution of wealth shall become the common property of all the people, to be operated and administered by all the people for their common benefit. In other words, we demand fundamentally a real government of the people by the people for the people, not only politically, but also industrially.

With this brief and imperfect review of our general principles, we make for Asheville the following demands, and shall, if elected to office, do all in our power to achieve them, so far as present laws will permit:

1. We demand such changes in the city charter as shall give to our people complete home rule by means of the initiative and referendum, or direct action by the people on proposed laws.

2. We demand the acquisition by the city of all lighting and telephone plants, street railways and other public utilities; and we promise to grant no more public franchises to private corporations, but will strive to curtail and fix the terms of those already granted.

3. We advocate and favor the inauguration of public works by the city and the substitution in general of public ownership and operation, wherever feasible, through the exercise of municipal power; such as a public library, public laundries, brickyards and quarries, but especially the erection and operation by the city of an ice plant and of a coal and wood yard.

4. We demand the abolition of the contract system in all city work, and that the city do its own public work by its own outfitts

and employees.

5. We demand on all city work an eight hour day, with union wages and conditions to govern on all public work, and we promise that the influence and power of the city administration shall be used in support of the principles of organized labor.

6. We demand the prohibition of child labor under sixteen; compulsory education, and that the city furnish text books to school children when necessary. We further demand the immediate establishment of higher grades and scientific teaching in the public high school.

7. We demand that the money derived from street paving shall go into the sinking fund for the payment of the bonds, as commanded by the law, and the payment of these bonds as soon as possible.

8. We demand the assessment of real estate and especially vacant lands at their true value, as required by the constitution, and that the present vexations, unjust and burdensome taxes on occupations, trades and professions be abolished, and that the main burden of taxation be placed on the owners of special privileges, such as land and franchise owners.

9. We demand stricter sanitation and cleaner streets all over the city.

Fellow-citizens, the fight for your rights is on! We call upon all men, especially the laboring men of this City, in the words of the immortal manifesto: "Working men, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain!"